

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 2 and 7 and incorporate the substance of Claim 2 into independent Claims 1 and 9, as indicated below. Please amend the remaining claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An ink jet recording apparatus for discharging ink supplied from an exchangeably mounted ink tank to a recording medium through a recording head to thereby perform recording, said ink jet apparatus being connectable to an external host, said ink jet apparatus comprising:

operating means for operating the ink jet recording apparatus and for changing a setup, wherein said operating means includes on-line switching means for switching the state of connection to the host between an on-line state and an off-line state;  
remaining amount management means for managing a remaining amount of ink in the mounted ink tank;

mode change means for, when switching between a first operating mode and a second operating mode when it is determined that following the consumption of ink, the remaining amount of ink in the ink tank managed by the remaining amount management means has reached zero, wherein in the switching between a first operating mode in which thereafter a recording operation using the recording head is inhibited after the remaining amount managed by the remaining amount management means has reached zero, and wherein in the second operating a second mode in which the continuance of the recording

operation is enabled regardless of the remaining amount of ink managed by the remaining amount management means; and

control means for, when performance of the recording operation is instructed in the second operating mode, permitting the performance of the recording operation after a user's manipulation through the operating means,

wherein when the performance of the recording operation is instructed in the second operating mode, the control means sets the state of the connection to the host to the off-line state, and then permits the performance of the recording operation after the user manipulates the on-line switching means to change the state to the on-line state.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) An ink jet recording apparatus according to claim 2-claim 1, wherein, each time a predetermined number of copies is recorded in the second operating mode, the control means sets the connection state to the host to the on-line-off-line state.

4. (Original) An ink jet recording apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the ink tank includes a storage element for storing the remaining amount of ink that is managed by the remaining amount management means; and wherein, when the operating mode is changed to the second operating mode, the control means stores, in the storage element of the ink tank, information representing the change to the second operating mode.

5. (Original) An ink jet recording apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

storage means for storing the remaining amount of ink managed by the remaining amount management means,

wherein when the operating mode is changed to the second operating mode, the control means causes said storage means to store, in the storage means of the ink jet recording apparatus, information representing the change to the second operating mode.

6. (Currently Amended) An ink jet recording apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

remaining amount detection means for detecting when the remaining amount of ink in the ink tank reaches a level equal to or lower than a predetermined amount level;

wherein when, in the first operating mode, the remaining amount detection means has not yet detected that the remaining amount of ink reaches a level equal to or lower than the predetermined amount level, and when the amount of ink in the ink tank that has been consumed remaining amount managed by the remaining amount management means has exceeded a predetermined amount, the control means inhibits the performance of the recording operation.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently Amended) An ink jet recording apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the predetermined amount is more than the amount of ink with which the ink tank was initially filled.

9. (Currently Amended) A method of controlling an ink jet recording apparatus for discharging ink supplied from an exchangeably mounted ink tank discharged to a recording medium through a recording head to thereby perform recording, said ink jet apparatus being connectable to an external host, said method comprising the steps of:

switching, when between a first operating mode and a second operating mode when a remaining amount of ink to be managed is reduced, between a wherein in the first operating mode in which the performance of a recording operation is inhibited and a second in the second operating mode in which the performance of the recording operation is enabled; and

confirming, when performance of the recording operation is instructed in the second operating mode, whether a predetermined manipulation has been performed through operating means provided for by a user of the ink jet recording apparatus; and

controlling the performance of the recording operation to be permitted after the predetermined manipulation has been performed by a user the user;

wherein said ink jet recording apparatus includes on-line switching means for switching the state of connection to the host between an on-line state and an off-line state; and

wherein said confirming step includes the step of switching the state of the connection to the off-line state, and said predetermined operation includes the user's manipulation of the on-line switching means to the on-line state.